

# WILSON WILL NOT CONSENT TO ABRIDGEMENT OF RIGHTS OF AMERICANS IN ANY RESPECT

After Two Days of Agitation In Congress for Action Warning Americans Off Armed Ships President Takes Definite Stand

## NATION'S HONOR IS INVOLVED

President Expresses Hope Explanations Will Put Different Aspect on Situation Now Seeming to Present Insurmountable Obstacle

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—President Wilson at the end of two days of agitation in congress for action warning Americans off armed merchant ships, wrote a letter tonight to Senator Stone, chairman of the senate foreign relations committee, stating that he could not consent to any abridgement of the rights of American citizens in any respect.

"The honor and self-respect of the nation is involved," he said. "We covet peace, and shall persevere at any cost but the loss of honor."

The president expressed hope that explanations of the declared intentions of the central powers of Europe to sink all armed merchant ships without warning would put a different aspect on a situation which now seemed to present insurmountable obstacles.

"We have had no reason to question their good faith or their fidelity to their promises in the past," he added, "and I for one feel confident that we shall have none in the future."

The letter was in answer to one written late this afternoon by Senator Stone outlining the situation existing at the capitol, where since yesterday morning persistent demands had been made for some action which might lessen the possibility of war between the United States and Germany.

The president's statement will be repeated tomorrow morning to Speaker Clark, Representative Kitchin, Majority Leader, and Representative Flood, chairman of the house foreign affairs committee, who late today asked for an engagement in order to explain the position in which the house found itself and ask the president for a statement of the administration's views.

The president wrote his letter during the afternoon, shutting himself up in his study while congressional leaders vainly attempted to get him on the telephone to tell him of developments at the capitol and to arrange for the calm of the house leaders.

He began to write after telephone conversations with cabinet men and other close advisers. His decision was to end all speculation over the position of the government, and to let congress and the country know that the administration believed the United States could do nothing but stand behind the right of its citizens to the freedom of the seas.

At the state department today it was said that in its international aspects the situation had not changed in the slightest degree for three or four days. Officials said nothing has been heard from Germany in response to the request of the United States for assurances that previous pledges given in the Lusitania and Arabic negotiations would not be nullified by the new campaign against armed ships. Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, through whom the request was made, also was said to be without information as to when a response would be forthcoming.

Confidential advisers from Berlin, however, have indicated that Germany would reply that all assurances previously given would be observed, but that they applied only to unarmed vessels, and would propose discussion of what defensive armament properly

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## Full Text Of Presidents Letter To Senator Stone

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—President Wilson's letter to Senator Stone, chairman of the senate foreign relations committee, announcing that he could not consent to any abridgement of the rights of American citizens in any respect, follows:

"Washington, D. C., February 24, 1916.

"My Dear Senator:

"I very warmly appreciate your kind and frank letter of today and feel that it calls for an equally frank reply. "You are right in assuming that I shall do everything in my power to keep the United States out of war. I think the country will feel no uneasiness about my course in that respect. Through my anxious months I have striven for that object, amidst difficulties more manifold than can be here apparent upon the surface, and so far I have succeeded. I do not doubt that I shall continue to succeed. The course which the central European powers have announced their intention of following in the future with regard to undersea warfare seems for the moment to threaten insuperable obstacles but its apparent meaning is so manifestly inconsistent with explicit assurances recently given us by these powers with regard to their treatment of merchant vessels on the high seas that I must believe that explanations will presently ensue which will put a different aspect on it. We have had no reason to question their good faith or their fidelity to their promises in the past, and I for one feel confident that we shall have none in the future.

"But in any event our duty is clear. No nation or group of nations has the right while the war is in progress to alter or disregard the principles which all nations have agreed upon in mitigation of the horrors and sufferings of war; and if the clear rights of American citizens should ever unhappily be abridged or denied by any such action, we should, it seems to me, have in honor or no choice as to what our own course should be.

"For my own part, I cannot consent to any abridgement of the rights of American citizens in any respect. The

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## GRAND JURY MAY PROBE SPLIT SALARY CHARGE

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] CHICAGO, Feb. 24.—Grand jury action appeared tonight as among the possibilities in connection with the "split" salary charges of Mrs. Page Walker Eaton against Mrs. Osborne Ford, commissioner of public welfare. The city council committee voted late today to recommend that the evidence so far heard by it be presented to the state's attorney with the request that he submit it to the grand jury, if such action seemed to warrant.

Testimony concerning the split salary charges involving the city department of public welfare, was heard today by two investigation bodies. Charges that she had paid part of her salary to Mrs. Rowe were made under oath before the council committee by Mrs. Eaton, former superintendent of social surveys in the welfare department. On completing her testimony before the council committee Mrs. Eaton went before the civil service commissioner investigators.

Alderman Rodriguez, who presented the charges to the council, testified to seeing Mrs. Eaton place money in an envelope and give it to Mrs. Rowe. Rodriguez testified before both investigating bodies.

Among other witnesses heard by the civil service investigators were

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## WINSLOW SAYS PACIFIC COAST AN EASY VICTIM

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—While the house military committee was taking steps today toward getting its bill for increasing the regular army and federalizing the National Guard before the house within ten days, the naval committee was being informed by Admiral Cameron Melt Winslow that the entire Pacific fleet which he commands might be an easy victim for a single good enemy battle group.

Admiral Winslow made the statement smilingly. Pressed by Representative Stephens of California for an exact description of the condition of the ships under his command, he said the force was wholly inadequate, even with all its reserves called out, to meet any probable enemy in the Pacific. What plans the navy department had for meeting an emergency there or in the Atlantic, however, he did not care to reveal except in confidential session.

Representative Stephens said that this discussion should be prepared, but said he had many questions still to ask regarding the Pacific fleet. He will pursue the subject tomorrow.

The military committee is making rapid progress in considering the bill Chairman Hay was authorized to frame and which now has been printed.

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## IMPROVED FLOOD CONDITIONS OFFSET BY APPEALS FOR AID

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] NEW ORLEANS, La., Feb. 24.—Improved conditions among flood victims in the vicinity of Newellton and St. Joseph were offset tonight by appeals for aid from three Louisiana towns

which previously had not been reported in distress.

The appeal from St. Landry parish said hundreds of Americans about Bayou Cortabreau had been driven from their homes by water and, suffering from lack of food and shelter, were marooned on high spots along the Bayou. Much suffering was reported in the neighborhood of Serena, due to overflow from the Black river and a message from Lisnore said the town was flooded and there was little food for the inhabitants and stock.

A second appeal for help was also received from Deer Park. The report stated that the land had been inundated almost two weeks and the people were forced to sacrifice their livestock and were facing starvation.

Efforts to send boats and provisions will be made at once.

Reports of distress were received also from Montez, Lane Landing, Eva, Chevy Chase and other towns along the Black river.

Water tonight was said to be all around Newellton, St. Joseph, Ferriday, Waterproof, Vidalia, Jeffries, Clayton and other of the larger towns of Concordia and Tensas parishes. The water is slowly rising against the embankment protecting Vidalia, across the river from Natchez, and despite efforts are being made to keep it out of the business section of the town.

## TO DETERMINE STATUS OF APPAM SOON

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The state department is waiting for Germany's request of a ruling on the status of the British liner Appam, brought into Hampton Roads by a prize crew, probably will be delivered within three or four days, Consular Polk so advised counsel for the German embassy and the British owners of the steamship today, when they called at the state department to ask that a decision be hastened, in view of the libel proceedings recently instituted in the federal court.

## CABINET HEADS GAVE THEIR O. K.

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Officials of the Pan-American Commission Corporation, formed by American financiers to finance the marketing of the sisal crop of Yucatan, Mex., and now under investigation by a senate committee, secured the approval of officials of the justice, treasury and state departments before organization of the corporation, according to testimony given the investigating committee today by Lynn H. Dinkins, a New Orleans banker, and vice-president of the Sisal Corporation.

With Sol Wexler of New York, who became president of the enterprise, Dinkins came to Washington, he said, and submitted details of their proposal to the controller of the currency and to officials in the departments of state and justice. In each case, he declared, full approval was expressed.

Dinkins added to the charges made by others connected with the corporation regarding the efforts of the International Harvester company to bandit it. He said the harvester company had sought by threats of removing their representatives from the bank's directorates to prevent the Central and Commercial National Bank of Chicago and the National City Bank of New York City from making loans on sisal.

## THE WAR WAS TOO MUCH FOR GEORGE

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 24.—George Yakich, a Montenegrin, 33 years old, ran amuck in a crowd discussing war bullets at a Union street corner today and stabbed six persons before he was overpowered by a policeman.

R. B. Woodbury, 29 years old, was stabbed in the back of the head, the chest extended through to the mouth and almost severed an artery. His condition is critical.

All the others injured will recover. E. H. Langland, who was in the crowd, told the police Yakich was listening intently to a war argument. Suddenly he muttered, "I'm going to kill every German here," and then began wielding his knife indiscriminately, stabbing pro-Germans, pro-allies and neutrals without distinction.

## OFFICER LET OUT ON BRIBE CHARGE

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] LOS ANGELES, Feb. 24.—Acceptance of a bribe is charged against Roger Woodbury, former constable, by a warrant issued against him late today by Asa Keyes, deputy district attorney. The specific charge against Woodbury is that he permitted James A. Turkish, who was under arrest recently on a statutory charge, to remain in a downtown hotel upon agreement to pay him \$20 a day.

Woodbury was removed from office last week by Sheriff John C. Cline. The former constable was arrested on the warrant, but allowed to go to his home for the night after promising to appear before a justice of the peace tomorrow for arraignment.

## USE DYNAMITE TO SAVE BRIDGE

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] OMAHA, Feb. 24.—Several hundred men tonight are dynamiting ice gorges in Nebraska rivers in an effort to save railroad bridges and the wagon bridges still intact. The men have been mobilized by county and township officials and are working at the ice jams in relays. Several score county bridges already have been destroyed and large areas of farming and grazing lands are under water.

Two men working in dynamiting sounds were killed today. I. W. Funk, a surveyor of Sedgewick county, was killed at Schuyler while blasting the ice gorge above the Platte river bridge there. His companions had narrow escapes. Albert Gerber, a farmer, was killed at Duncan when a stick of dynamite exploded in his hand.

## SAYS BOMB WAS FIRE CRACKER

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 24.—Authorities at the state capitol building tonight said the report of the story told today by a janitor that a bomb had been exploded last night in the furnace room of the state house.

Investigation during the day disclosed that no damage had been done to the furnace where the explosion occurred. The theory of officials is that a large firecracker was placed in a small brass tube found lying in a storeroom and thrown with an accumulation of trash in the furnace room, and was in turn thrown into the furnace by the night janitor, causing an explosion.

## EMPEROR AND PRINCE SPUR TROOPS TO ACTION BEFORE VERDUN FORTS

Attack Has Followed Attack Against French Line After Bombardments Incessant and Terrific, for Several Days

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] Inspired by the presence of their emperor and led by Crown Prince Frederick William, the German troops are engaged in one of the greatest battles of the war on the western front, centering around the fortress of Verdun. Attack has followed attack against the French line after bombardments, incessant and terrific, continuing for several days.

While the Germans have not been able, despite the rain of shells and furious onslaughts by the infantry, to break the French line, nevertheless the French on their right and left wings have been compelled to withdraw their lines, respectively to the south of Ornes and behind the town of Samogneux, six miles north of the fortress.

Only between Malancourt and the left bank of the Meuse has there been any diminution in the intensity of the artillery fire. With Brabant, Haumont and Samogneux and the wooded sections north and northeast of Beaumont in their possession, the Germans from the Meuse eastward to Fromezey, forcing the fighting, seemingly regardless of the cost of life.

The French guns have answered the German guns shell for shell and the casualties on both sides are heavy. The French official reports describe the battlefield between the Meuse and Ornes as piled with German dead.

In Champagne at several points and in the Argonne forest, German works have been pounded by the concentrated fire of the French guns, while in Lorraine the French repulsed a German reconnoitering party that attempted to capture a French post north of St. Martin.

On their end of the line, near Houluch, the British exploded a mine and occupied the crater, and also bombarded German trenches near Freilengheim and Basleigne.

On the Russian front from the Riga region to east Galicia there have been engagements at various points but no great results have been attained by either side. In the Caucasus, Petrograd reports that the Russians continue successfully to press back the Austrians and Italians on the Austro-Italian front continue.

A French air squadron has dropped a large number of bombs on the outskirts of Metz, a big fire being observed after the attack.

Official announcement has been made in the Japanese and by the minister of foreign affairs that Japan does not intend to send troops to aid the Russians.

The Earl of Derby has accepted the chairmanship of the joint army and navy board which will control the British air service.

## The Spring Offensive

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The great Verdun battle which is being watched in England with keen interest, but thus far without anxiety, is regarded here as the long expected big German spring offensive. It is pointed out that the French, profiting by their earlier experiences in the war, now rarely hold their advanced trenches strongly and that, therefore, their withdrawal at some points to the second line is no sign of weakness.

On the other hand, it is believed that the French generals are pursuing the tactics of allowing the enemy to assault in masses which involves enormous sacrifices to the Germans. The military critics point out that, after three days of desperate assault the French second line defenses are still intact everywhere.

It is assumed here that the Germans began preparations for this attack at about the time of the Turkish defeat in Armenia, which sealed the fate of Erzerum.

The Times says it has information that the French are more than usually confident and serene and are inclined to contemplate the German onslaught with considerable satisfaction. The Times correspondent at Paris hints that drastic reasons led the Germans to attack Verdun. He expresses the opinion that General von Boelher has been brought from the eastern front to conduct the operations and admits that the crown prince's army has been heavily reinforced from Metz.

"Fortunately, however," says the correspondent, "the element of surprise was totally missing from the attack."

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## COL. ROOSEVELT AND WIFE HOMEWARD BOUND

BARBADOS, B. W. I., Feb. 24.—Colonel Theodore Roosevelt and Mrs. Roosevelt arrived here today and proceeded to Demerara, British Guiana. They will go from Demerara to Trinidad, where they will take a steamer direct to New York. Both Col. Roosevelt and Mrs. Roosevelt were in good health.

## MAN BELIEVED TO BE LYMAN IS TAKEN ON YACHT

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] TAMPA, Fla., Feb. 24.—A man answering the description of J. Grant Lyman, wanted in New York for alleged defalcations of more than \$300,000, was arrested late today on a yacht at St. Petersburg, Florida. He declined to answer questions as to his identity.

The man was said to have with him on the yacht several trunks and suit cases containing an elaborate wardrobe, \$14,905 in cash, and a certified check for \$5,594, payable to the bearer and drawn on the "Manhattan Company of New York." There were several endorsement on the check, police said, the last one being the signature, "John H. Putnam and Company." This was the name of an alleged fraudulent concern organized by Lyman in New York.

The yacht is said to have been purchased in Tampa last Saturday from two men whose names were given as "Smith" and "Olson," and who, police say, recently brought the vessel here from Chicago.

Search for Lyman began last Sunday on advice from New York and late today police at St. Petersburg were informed that a man whose appearance corresponded to Lyman's was aboard a yacht in the harbor there. The arrest followed.

Police Chief Easters reported that the man at first made a show of resistance, but changed his mind apparently and submitted to news-papern men declined to reply when asked if the police had arrested the wrong man. It was announced the man would be held at St. Petersburg pending word from the New York authorities.

## Bondsman May Agree

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 24.—Unless Gorham Tufts, his principal bondsman, seeks to have him brought here, Los Angeles federal authorities probably will consent to J. Grant Lyman, the promoter, who was arrested tonight at Tampa, Fla., being taken to New York for trial, according to a statement made tonight by Robert O'Connor, assistant United States district attorney.

Mr. Tufts is in New York at present, Mr. O'Connor explained.

"We do not seek Lyman here at this time unless his bondsman wish to have him surrendered," Mr. O'Connor said. "Unless this is done we will not seek him until the United States circuit court of appeals at San Francisco renders a decision on the appeal."

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## TO MAKE NATION WIDE APPEAL FOR SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—Suffragists of New York state at the first of a series of state conferences under the auspices of the American Woman Suffrage association, considered here today steps which would be taken to induce the democrats and republicans to insert in their national platform planks pledging support of a proposed federal constitutional amendment

## ONLY LACK OF QUORUM PREVENTS APPROVAL OF FLETCHER'S NOMINATION

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Only the lack of a quorum prevented confirmation in the senate today of the nomination of Henry Prather Fletcher as ambassador to the de facto government of the United States.

The senate reached a vote on the nomination of Mr. Fletcher after less than an hour's debate. Opposition speeches were made by Senators Bo-

## PHOENIX MEN SEE CLOSEST COPPER CAMP

Forty-five Businessmen visit Superior on First of Series of Trade-expansion Excursions; Trip by Motor car.

## SUPERIOR HOST TO LOCAL CHAPS

Who see Magna Mine and Mill and Learn How Copper is Extracted; Wonderful Motor Drive Through Pinal Hills

In the role of host and guests, Superior and forty Phoenix businessmen got acquainted yesterday, and a good time was had by all. Mingling in the dining room, and later, busily inspecting the Magna mine and concentrator, the representatives of the closest-working copper camp of Superior and the trade excursionists exchanged cards, cigars, views, greetings and best wishes. The first of the series of trade-expansion motorcades was a total success.

Dashing out of town during the clearest hours of the Phoenix day—when the whole world seems new and different, the motor party got lined up on the state highway shortly before seven yesterday morning. A dozen cars carried the businessmen, each bearing pennants, while the occupants wore the little tags, with their names and labels, thus:

JOHN JONES  
My Occupation Is: HARDWARE

In spite of the high waters of recent weeks, the roads—for there are two of them—were found to be in splendid shape. Therefore, it was a perfectly jolly and carefree party that gathered in the dining room of the Magna hotel at noon. No blow-outs, no engine trouble, no "getting stuck" marred the happiness. By the time the clans had accumulated in the cafe of the "chalet," part of the works had been seen. The appetites, rendered keen by the drive in the cool morning air, had been honed to razor-sharpness by a climb up some of Superior's up-tilted streets. Even Dave Goldberg indulged, and he is just out of the hospital.

H. W. Ashbury, vice-president of the chamber of commerce, and a sort of chief-of-expedition, arose along with a cloud of cigar smoke and explained to the Superior hosts that Phoenix had got ready to come out of its shell and get up to things in its immediate vicinity. He didn't speak long, nor did he extend any cordial invitations to others to take up a great deal of time.

No one apologized for the presence of a tax-commissioner in the party. Neither did Tom Campbell, who was the first speaker. He just said how glad he was to meet-chu and started the ball rolling.

Then followed E. F. Kellner, manager of the company store, and H. H. Kamm, superintendent of the Magna mine. They orated not, but they said that the camp and all that was in it belonged to the visitors—a statement they would attempt to prove during the afternoon.

In behalf of the chamber of commerce, the Merchants and Manufacturers' association and the Rotary club,

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## SHIP GUARDED AFTER THREAT TO DESTROY HER VALUABLE CARGO

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] SEATTLE, Feb. 24.—When the British freighter Talthybius of the Blue Funnel line docked here tonight, every approach was closely guarded as the result of an anonymous threat that the liner's \$5,500,000 cargo had been marked for destruction by alleged German spies.

The Talthybius brought 5,000 tons of rubber, worth \$5,000,000; silk worth \$1,000,000, and other oriental products valued at \$2,500,000. The rubber was shipped from Singapore and will be rushed by rail to the east for use in American automobile and tire factories.

Owners of water-front property, although skeptical of the authenticity of the warning which was sent to Fire Marshal Harry Bringham, placed guards about their warehouses as a precautionary measure.

Several months ago Pier 14, which was used by the Blue Funnel fleet, was destroyed by fire believed to have been of incendiary origin, and from time to time there have been vague threats that other piers used for the shipment of war munitions to Russia would be destroyed.

After the steamer tied up, the police boat, the United States Coast Guard launch Guard and the state fisheries patrol launch began a patrol of the harbor to prevent a possible attack on the Talthybius from the water side, although federal officers were inclined to brand the letter as the work of a crank.

Port Warden A. A. Paysee said that if it was found necessary to increase the harbor patrol he would ask the government for use of a steam launch manned by bluejackets from the cruiser Albany, which is anchored in the harbor.